

CNOOC is very different from most other companies because it is owned by the Chinese government. It could be directed to sell oil only to the Chinese, taking a large portion of its resources off of the international oil market. As a result of this possibility, the sale of Unocal raised great concerns in the American public. If it had occurred, the Chinese government would have gained control of a significant American player in the energy industry, just as we are struggling with sky-rocketing gas prices and concerns about a secure supply, especially from the volatile Middle East.

Although CNOOC withdrew its bid to buy Unocal, it did not stop looking for other sources of oil. The interest of Chinese companies in Canadian oil is especially troublesome. In May, CNOOC purchased almost 17 percent of MEG Energy Corporation, a Canadian-owned company that owns oil sand leases on almost 33,000 acres of Alberta land. Another Chinese company, SinoCanada Petroleum, has formed a joint venture with Canada's Synenco Energy to develop oil sands projects in Canada which are estimated to produce 5 tons of synthetic crude oil. These initial investments illustrate the worrisome growing Chinese interest in the estimated 178 billion barrels of recoverable oil in Alberta.

Canada is our highly respected neighbor, and our strong relationship has provided many benefits for both of our countries. Canada is our greatest trading partner with more than \$1 billion a day in goods and services traded. Canada exports almost 99 percent of its oil to the U.S., and the U.S. imports more oil from Canada than from any other country, with 16 percent of our total imports coming from our northern neighbor. With the increasing development of Alberta's oil sands, this percentage could significantly increase.

If CNOOC had purchased Unocal, it would have owned an American company but few oil resources in North America. But now, China is interested in not just in North American companies, but in Canadian oil reserves as well, the most secure source of oil outside of our own borders.

As the Chinese become more involved, the U.S. needs to become more engaged with the Canadian government and the provincial government of Alberta in discussing the potential ramifications. Let me be clear on this: Neither Congress nor the Bush Administration can or should ever be seen to be telling Canada or Alberta what to do. However, our government should utilize our good relations and strong economic ties to learn more about the Chinese interests in Canadian oil and to discuss the potential shared security concerns.

The administration has shown an interest in this important issue. Treasury Secretary Snow visited Alberta in July and Vice President CHENEY was scheduled to tour the area in September before Hurricane Katrina forced

him to cancel his visit. The Senate sent a delegation to Alberta in August. I strongly encourage the Vice President to reschedule his trip, as well as encourage other Members of Congress to travel and to learn more about this close energy source.

This is a critical time to be concerned about secure energy supplies for the future of the United States. We need to be more diligent about conservation and energy efficiency. We need to be working harder to develop alternative sources of energy. But no matter what we do and how successful we are in weaning ourselves from oil, gas and other conventional energy sources, our Nation will still be in need of foreign fossil fuels for many years to come. In the unpredictable world in which we live today, it would be best to rely on secure sources of energy close to home.

That is why I urge Congress and the administration to learn more about Alberta's oil sands and the potential to supply U.S. energy needs. We must continue to work closely with our neighbors on the north on this important security issue.

WEST GEORGIA BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. GINGREY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GINGREY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the West Georgia Boys and Girls Club, an exemplary community organization in the 11th District of Georgia.

The West Georgia Club serves the youth of Troup and Meriwether counties, and it does so with distinction. The four facilities operated by the Boys and Girls Club are always buzzing with students, volunteers, friends and events.

On an average day, you will find a host of activities that contribute to the Boys and Girls Club's goal of providing every child with the essential tools needed for success and a bright future.

After-school tutoring gives students the skills they need to achieve. Friday night movies and social events give teens an alternative to street life. Service projects, leadership and skill development, even National Kids Day are all part of what makes the West Georgia Boys and Girls Club a true leader in community involvement and service.

And do not just take my word for it. The West Georgia Club has been recognized and honored on a national level for their amazing work with the youth of Georgia. At the 2005 Boys and Girls Club National Conference in California this year, the West Georgia club won seven national awards. That is right, seven awards.

These included awards for public service announcements, special events, web page, newsletter and even their an-

nual telethon, which I was proud to participate in this year. Most impressively, the West Georgia Boys and Girls Club was selected as the best overall program for clubs with a budget under \$400,000.

Madam Speaker, an organization is only as successful as the men and women who commit their time to making it great. And the West Georgia Club has a first rate team. Chris Patton and Wally West oversee the club, and its board members, Judy Wilkerson, Linda Griffies, Emmitt Clark, Mel Jackson-Kendrick, Frank Walls, Rev. Dalton Hammock, Charlie Martin and the many other volunteers from Troup and Meriwether counties give their time to ensure this club is one of the best in the Nation.

It is the commitment and creativity of community organizations like the West Georgia Boys and Girls Club that make our neighborhoods more than simply a collection of homes and buildings. The American spirit is alive and well at the West Georgia Club, and the beneficiaries in our community have a brighter future because of the club's dedication.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join me in thanking the West Georgia Boys and Girls Club for their creativity, their commitment and, above all, their willingness to help those in need.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BROWN of Ohio addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

FREEZING IN THE DARK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, when the ladies of the gulf, Katrina and Rita, came barreling through recently, we learned many lessons. Unfortunately, in the aftermath we learned that the gulf coast oil and natural gas production can be easily disrupted to the detriment of the Americans. Although there were around 2,900 platforms pelted in the path of the ladies of the gulf, very little environmental impact resulted. In the wake of these hurricanes, the need for American petroleum and natural gas and dependence on ourselves has become evident.

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The United States must be more self-sufficient when it comes to energy.

The United States imports 60 percent of its crude oil from foreign countries. In doing so, we are subject to the illegal price fixing cartel known as OPEC. The Gulf of Mexico is responsible for one-third of the domestic oil production and 22 percent of the domestic natural gas production. We learned